



“The Lure of the Desert” by Sylvia Winslow

Maturango News

Maturango Museum: Preserve, interpret and develop an appreciation for the natural and cultural history of the Northern Mojave Desert.

100 E. Las Flores Ave. • Ridgecrest, CA 93555
760.375.6900 www.maturango.org

Death Valley Tourist Center Northern Mojave Visitor Center

Museum Director’s Notes

By Debbie Benson, Director

September is one of my favorite months of gratitude. We had a great summer with the interns and our summer help. We miss them and wish them well as they go back to their various schools!

We had many people helping and donating items for our Mirage Sale. It’s always a fun and interesting event and some amazing items came through those doors!

I received a quick note of kindness from a dear friend who was renewing her membership. The words of support have great meaning.

We had a great response for our eclipse events thanks to the great collaborative work of Nora and Sherry, our docents, the staff, members of CLAS and support from the RACVB.

For the month of September, the primary focus for most of us will be the September 30th Fundraising Dinner Auction which will be held at the Kerr McGee Center. Tickets are now available for what looks to be another fun evening with some beautiful and fun auction items. Come join us and help support one of the Indian Wells Valley’s finest Museums. Dinner will be catered by Farris’ and dessert by the “Enchanted Whisk”.

Sponsorships are still available for an evening of fun with music by Ted Lemon. Contact Julie or Debbie debbie@maturango.org at 760-375-6900 if you have any questions or have a donation in mind. We are accepting donations until the 15th. Hope to see you there!



Bill McEwan’s Cowboy



Olaf Doud’s Petroglyph Rock

Annual Fundraising Dinner / Auction

Saturday, September 30, 2017

Tickets available in the gift shop and at shop.maturango.org

Open Studio Tour 2017

Artists open their studios for the 2-day event so ticket holders can visit and purchase artwork. The tour will be Saturday and Sunday, October 21 & 22, 10 am – 5 pm each day.
\$10 tickets now on sale in museum gift shop.

Each artist will also have their artwork displayed in the Open Studio Tour Exhibit at the Museum : 9 Sep. – 27 Oct.

Open Studio Tour Artists’ Exhibit Opening Reception : Friday, 15 September, doors open at 7p.m.



Docent Doings

By Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator

The docents will have their first meeting of the season on Tuesday, September 12 at 8:45 a.m. at the Museum. We will meet for coffee, tea, juice and breakfast snacks at 8:45 a.m. and begin the meeting about 9. This will be a welcome-back and get-acquainted meeting. We welcome everyone that is interested.

Petroglyph Lectures at the Museum

Once again, our archaeology curator Sandy Rogers, will be giving monthly lectures at the museum during the fall petroglyph tour season. The lectures summarize the cultural and archaeological background of the Coso region, discuss the rock art itself and its interpretation, and resources available at the museum. The lectures are intended to provide background information for petroglyph tour participants, but anyone interested is welcome to attend. The lectures will be in the Coso Room at 7pm on 23 September, 14 October, 11 November, and 2 December .

Natural History News

By Sherry Brubaker

Well... summer is coming to an end and with the ending, school starts. Cloe, the summer intern, is returning to college to finish her senior year. She is already looking towards grad school. With her help, the Excel list of curation items is now fully entered and up to date. Also, with Cloe's, Katie's and Elaine's help, the paleontology collection was moved to another part of curation storage. The idea is to have all of Natural History together and all of History together. Soon I will have the minerology collection moved so the whole collection will be in one place.

The current exhibit in the Argus Room, "Local Birds", shows wonderful photos by Bob Steele along with taxidermied birds from the museum's collection.



Southwestern Desert Bats Class

Patricia Brown-Berry, Ph.D. will offer a class on Southwestern Desert Bats sponsored by the Maturango Museum to be held at the Desert Studies Center (DSC) at Soda Springs (Zzyzx) south of Baker, California. The class begins the evening of Friday October 6th and concludes at 2 PM on Sunday October 8th.

Dr. Brown-Berry has taught this class (or variations) at the DSC for over 35 years. She has conducted research on bats for 48 years, is a retired Research Associate at UCLA, and former Director of the Maturango Museum (1982-92). She regularly consults with state and federal agencies on bat surveys and conservation issues, in particular with regard to abandoned mine closures.



Bats are important components of the desert ecosystem, yet because of their nocturnal nature they are usually difficult to observe. This course will introduce the participants to the world of bats and to some of the techniques used by scientists to study these amazing mammals. Nightly field work will allow participants to use ultrasonic bat detectors and night vision equipment and to observe the mist-netting of wild bats (unless it's windy).

Cost: \$275 per person which includes instruction, two nights' lodging at the Center, a snack Friday evening and five meals beginning with breakfast on Saturday. Registration is online at maturango.org/southwestern-desert-bat-class/ Enrollment is limited to 25 students.

**Field Trip : Giant Sequoia National Monument - Trail of 100 Giants
with Janet Westbrook
Saturday, 23 Sep**

A search for huge red trees and flowers in cool high places northwest of Kernville. This is NOT Sequoia National Park, but Giant Sequoia National Monument, created in 1990. Highlight of the GSNM is the "Trail of 100 Giants," a paved 1 mile long loop trail which does indeed pass many Giant Sequoia trees over 10 ft. in diameter, and 3 which are over 20 feet in diameter. The best part is that it's only a 2 hour drive from Ridgecrest.

We will head through Kernville, pass Johnsondale, and up to the Monument and slowly walk the trail looking at all manner of trees and animals and secrets of the Western Divide forests of the Southern Sierra. There are many dead trees, mostly Ponderosa, from the drought and bark beetles. We will eat lunch before going into the grove. You will see, and learn about, over a dozen types of trees, but especially the Giant Sequoia. In September 2011, 2 conjoined huge trees fell over, and they still block the trail, but there's now a walkway beside them.

We will continue our explorations and go down to the Lloyd Meadows Road, view a waterfall, and return to Johnsondale and Kernville.

Please see our website www.maturango.org for times, costs and details.

**Fall Field Trip : Owens Valley, Olancho to Bishop, with Janet Westbrook
Saturday, 7 October**

Anyone can drive from Ridgecrest to Bishop in 2.5 hours, but do you know all the secret little places you're passing by and why they are what they are? Have you been out ON the lake?

We'll drive a bit of the DWP ring road out on the Owens Lake bed. There are lots of wintering and migrating birds, if no wind the reflections in the shallow flooding ponds are wonderful, and it's a whole new way to look at the Owens Valley from out there! Then Lubkin Canyon Road and Tuttle Creek Road - lovely fall colors to lunch at Portagee Joe campground. Visit the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery. Check for Tule Elk. Visit either Black Rock Fish Hatchery or Fish Springs Hatchery. Then to the east side of the Valley, more colors, the Owens River, etc. We'll finish the day up Bishop Creek looking at wonderful gold and red leaves at Aspendell and Lake Sabrina and South Lake. Just a lovely place to be in the fall!!

We'll be off Hwy 395 as much as possible!!

Bring a picnic lunch and a folding chair; we'll eat at a cute little campground. We plan to be in Bishop about 5 p.m., and it's a long way home from there - so you might want to consider having dinner somewhere on the way home - lots of choices.

Please see our website www.maturango.org for times, costs and details.

Children's Hour: Flex Friday, 22 September : 10:30 am

Children's Hour is gearing up for this fall season with fun and learning-packed programs for preschoolers and their families. Since 2009 enthusiastic docents have developed free monthly programs related to our desert environment and nearby mountains. The children have learned about coyotes, bats, bears, birds - eagles to hummers, reptiles, insects, rocks, wildflowers, nocturnal critters, and hibernation. Keeping the children engaged are stories, puppets, and action songs that get everyone moving and laughing, parents and grands included. On the Discovery Table there are hands-on exhibits of flowers to examine with magnifiers, mounted animals and tracks' models, along with other objects related to the themes. Crafts and coloring pictures allow the kids to participate and go home with their special creations.

Children's Hour is scheduled for the following flex Friday dates: September 22, October 20, November 17, and December 15. Information about each program's theme will be posted on the Museum's website in early September; www.maturango.org

History Curation

By Elaine Wiley, History Curator

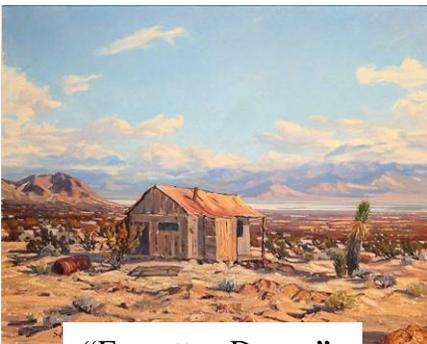
Database for History Books

After many hours of checking and entering data, the history section of the library has been catalogued. Having the books entered into a database is very important since it gives us the ease of looking up a book on a specific subject with a touch of a finger! Now we have an electronic inventory of the books that can be sorted by subject, year or author.

A big thank you to Lee Anne Zajicek who did the data entry of all 860 books and to Dorie Cornell who did the majority of the proofreading. Thanks to Katie McClain and Cloe Medrano, our two summer interns, and to Lauren Zajicek, all who helped check the database and reorganize the books by subject.



The summer interns were a significant help completing numerous tasks. Katie McClain was a huge help and worked on anything I asked. She and Cloe did many projects together for both Sherry and I. The two of them worked on the bird display currently in the Argus room, helped go through items in the curation room, labeled items from the Moen collection (Indian Wells Valley Search and Rescue), helped hang the Audubon Award Winning Photograph Exhibit and created model volcanoes for the docents! It was a busy but short summer and I hope they enjoyed their time here. The interns were definitely a positive asset to the museum.



“Forgotten Dream”

Sylvia Winslow Paintings Now on Exhibit in the Sylvia Winslow Gallery

From her youth, Sylvia Winslow had artistic talent, but she had focused on the field of design until she saw the Mojave Desert. So moved was she by the desert's subtle beauty that she decided to become a landscape painter.

In the late 1940's, Sylvia and her husband Slim, moved to China Lake. Slim had been hired at the Naval Ordnance Test Station. The adventurous Winslows explored the desert, and in the process became interested in archaeology, a field Sylvia tackled with her typical energy and competence. As an amateur archaeologist, she made her mark on California desert archaeology with some of the first serious attempts to explore the potential for the presence of early man.

In 1962, Sylvia and Rhea Blenman, wife of the then China Lake commander, established the Maturango Museum. Sylvia became the first curator and the Sylvia Winslow Gallery is named in her honor.

Donations and New Members

Donations

Anonymous (2)
Denny and Mary Jane Kline
Mary Jane McEwan
Marie McGlothlin
Judy Matlock
Debra and Keith Sweitzer
Burton and Ann Wagner
Bob Westbrook
Pat Wharton
Ken Whetzel
Docent Fund
Betty Spindler – in honor of
Robert and Andrea Jones

Building Fund

Roberta and Al Miller – in
memory of

Robert Francis

Taxidermy Fund

Katherine and John Niemel

Piano Fund

High Desert Music Teachers
Association

In Memory of Bob Rogers

Milt and Jane Burford
Sandy and Fran Rogers –
piano fund

Student Anthropology Program

New Members

John Bretney
John Cook
Aleta and Kevin Johnson
Josh and Melissa Johnson
Piero Martinucci
Dottie Mott
David and Janice Norcross
Sally Schneider
Mike and Gail Shake
Christine Tome

Maturango Museum of the IWV

100 E. Las Flores Ave., Ridgecrest, CA 93555
Open every day (except major holidays)
10 am - 5 pm

Staff

Debbie Benson, Museum Director
Maureen Goff, Store Manager/Buyer
Sandy Rogers, Archaeology Curator
Elaine Wiley, History Curator
Sherry Brubaker, Natural History Curator
Julie Stephens, Finance Manager
Fran Van Valkenburgh, Membership
Andrea Pelch, Art Gallery Coordinator
Joann Barbee, Assistant Bookkeeper
Nora Nuckles, Education Coordinator
Linda Saholt, Petroglyph Tour Coord.
Sam Stephens, Museum Assistant
Deanna Stewart, Museum Assistant
Sue Gilbert, Museum Assistant
Nora Nuckles, Museum Assistant
Nick Rogers, Museum Assistant
Andrea Pelch, Newsletter Editor

Committee Chairpersons

Dan Burnett, Building
Fran Rogers, Concerts
Bev Hill, Docent League
Sandy Rogers, Lectures
Elaine Wiley, Publications
Bob Westbrook, Strategic Planning
Mike Brown, Webmaster

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District
SpringHill Suites by Marriott
The Swap Sheet
Tax Time Services
TJ Frisbee Bicycles, Inc.
TOSS
WACOM
Warren's Automotive



Regularly Scheduled Meetings

- China Lake Astronomical Society: 1st Monday of each month, 7 pm
- China Lake Photographic Society: 1st Thursday of each month, 7 pm
- Kerncrest Audubon Society: 3rd Thursday bi-monthly [Jan, Mar, May, Sep, Nov, not July], 7 pm
- Docent League: 1st Tuesday of each month, 8:45 a.m., everyone welcome
- California Turtle and Tortoise Club: 2nd Monday of each month, 7 pm
- Museum Board of Trustees: 3rd Monday of each month, 7 pm

Quick Check Calendar

Open Studio Tour Artists' Exhibit Opening Reception : 15 Sep : 7 pm
Children's Hour: Flex Friday, 22 September : 10:30 am
Trail of 100 Giants with Janet Westbrook : Saturday 23 Sep : 8 am
Petroglyph Escort Training : Saturday 23 Sep : 8 am
Museum's Annual dinner / Auction : Saturday 30 Sep : 6 pm
Southwestern Desert Bats Class : Friday 6 Oct -- Sunday 8 Oct
Fall Field Trip : Owens Valley, Olancha to Bishop, with Janet Westbrook : Saturday, 7 Oct



Fall Petroglyph Tour dates are posted on our website; www.maturango.org
Petroglyph Tour dates during the Petroglyph Festival 4-5 November are also on
the website.

Petroglyph Escort Training and refresher session will be Saturday Sep 23 : 8 am. at the Maturango Museum. To sign up, e-mail Linda at petro@maturango.org or call (760) 375-6900. If you attended the March session, you don't need to attend this one. Further details will be given when you sign up.

Pizza Factory Fundraiser : all day Thursday 28 September :
30% of your purchase is donated to the Maturango Museum.



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